Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing resources in a distributed network, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a client computer system in the distributed network;

accessing a plurality of resources in response to the query; and

providing management task options related to the query from more than one resource.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to display an instance of a managed object;

displaying attribute information related to the managed object; and

displaying task information received from at least two back-end resources in response to the request to display the object information.

3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving search information from a first one of the plurality of resources related a managed object type;

storing the search information in a search store;

receiving search handler information related to object type, the search handler relating to search functions on the resource;

in response to the request to display information, determining whether the information is in the search store, and if not retrieving the information from the resource using the search handler; and
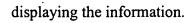
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10   displaying the information.

    4.   A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the search handler relates to a

search engine on the resource.

    5.   A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the search handler relates to

search engines on more than one resource.

    6.   A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the method further comprises:

        in response to the request to display object information, retrieving

information stored in the search store; and

        displaying additional information from the search store to allow the user to

5   refine the query.

    7.   A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprising:

        associating a first search component with a first object type, wherein the

first search component relates to object attributes managed by a first resource; and

        associating a second search component with the first object type, wherein

5   the second search component relates to object attributes managed by a second

resource.

    8.   A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding

instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

    9.   A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding

instructions for executing the method recited in claim 2.

    10.   A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding

instructions for executing the method recited in claim 3.

    11.   A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding

instructions for executing the method recited in claim 7.

12.   In a network environment having multiple resources, a computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing a method, the method comprising:

receiving a notification that a new resource has been installed on the

5   network environment, the installation process including communication

information with the new resource;

retrieving search information associated with new resource;

storing the search information associated with the new resource; and

sharing the search information with another resource on the network.

13.   A computer program product as defined in claim 12 wherein the notification includes the search information.

14.   A computer program product as defined in claim 12 wherein the search information relates to an object type managed by the new resource, the method further comprising:

determining whether the search information relates to an existing managed

5   object type;

if so, associating the search information with the existing object type; and

if not, associating the search information with a new object type.

15.   A system for query-based management of a plurality of resources comprising:

a management module in communication with the plurality of resources, the management module capable of receiving a request to access information

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related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive search information from the plurality of resources, the request relating to a query; and

in response to the receipt of a query request, the management module performing search functions on more than one resource to display accessed information.

16.   A system as defined in claim 15, wherein the management module comprises a search manager to receive and store search information, the search manager further communicates with the resources to perform the requested searches.

17.   A system as defined in claim 19 wherein each of the plurality of resources provides information to the search manager in XML format.

18.   A system as defined in claim 17 wherein one of the resources has a dedicated search engine for performing searches.